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Children's Trust Fund Approves Direct Services Grants to Eight Michigan Community-Based Organizations to Support Child Abuse Prevention

Oct. 3, 2011

LANSING, Mich. – The Children's Trust Fund (CTF) Board of Directors has passed a resolution to fund eight Direct Services grants to community-based organizations throughout Michigan in support of child abuse prevention initiatives. All grantees will be funded over a four-year period, with total grant amounts ranging from \$120,000 to \$187,500. The winning grant proposals were selected through a competitive bid process from among 20 proposals submitted.

"We received many more excellent proposals for needed community services than what we were able to fund," said Mike Foley, CTF executive director. "We were very impressed with the quality of the proposals and the commitment throughout the state to support families with evidence-based services."

The purpose of Direct Services grants is to fund community-based child abuse prevention programs and services. The grants support families that have risk factors or challenges that could impact positive parenting and optimal child development. Strong emphasis is placed on assuring that funded initiatives are appropriately integrated into broader community plans for serving children and families. The newly funded initiatives, combined with other multi-year grant commitments, means CTF is currently providing approximately \$1 million annually in support of children and families throughout the state. Brief descriptions of the eight successful bids follow:

- **Arbor Circle Kent County** – Expands the Kent County Healthy Start Program. Healthy Start is an evidence-based home visitation program for high-risk parents residing in Kent County, Michigan. The purpose of this project is to expand program capacity to serve a greater number of families for whom Spanish is the primary language.
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Marquette and Alger Counties** - Provides specialized services for girls in Marquette County. The GirlPower project will provide education and support to families in the Big Brother Big Sister programs, with a focus on issues that girls face.
- **CARE of Southeastern Michigan** - Provides an in-home parent education program and service coordination for pregnant mothers and parents with children from birth through age five. The program will consist of a minimum of 12 home visits, using the Nurturing Skills curriculum.
- **Huron County Health Department** - The Family Mentor Program serves 15 families per year, with a total of 60 families. This project will conduct home visits, utilizing the Healthy Families America Home Visiting Model and Nurturing Skills for Families curriculum. The Family Mentor

will collaborate with multiple agencies to identify families at risk through a common referral system.

- **Lenawee Intermediate School District** – Using the Parents as Teachers evidence-based intervention model, trained parent educators will provide direct services to families through three distinct, but complimentary delivery models: personal home visits, facilitation of playgroups, and developmental screening services.
- **Livingston Area Council Against Spouse Abuse, Inc.** - Combines two evidence-based national models to establish intensive long-term (Healthy Families) and short-term (Triple P-Positive Parenting Program) parenting and family support services for Livingston County families at risk for child abuse and neglect.
- **St. Joseph Mercy Oakland** - Project Parent expands Healthy Start/Healthy Families Oakland to provide short-term home visiting services (six to 10 home visits) to families that have demonstrated risk factors but are determined to be at low to moderate risk for child abuse and neglect. The purpose of the program is to foster a strong attachment between parents and infant, enhance family bonds and prevent child abuse and neglect.
- **Van Buren Intermediate School District** - The Great Start Baby Links program provides an opportunity for pregnant mothers and fathers-to-be to engage in activities which will increase their social connections, will increase their knowledge of parenting and child development, will increase their concrete supports in times of need, and will also increase the social and emotional competence of their children.

Created by the Michigan Legislature in 1982, Children's Trust Fund is Michigan's only statewide nonprofit organization solely dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. It has raised more than \$60 million to support programs that have affected more than 6 million children and families. For more information on CTF, please visit www.michigan.gov/ctf.

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